



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The Honorable Ken Calvert
United States House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 26, 2024

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT – CITY OF INDIAN WELLS EOC PROJECT – FISCAL YEAR 2025 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING – HOMELAND SECURITY

Dear Representative Calvert:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Palm Desert to express our support for the City of Indian Wells' application for Community Project Funding. This funding is crucial for rebuilding their Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which is of immense importance for the community's safety and well-being.

Indian Wells, as one of nine cities in the Coachella Valley, faces unique challenges that necessitate a robust emergency response infrastructure. Notably, Indian Wells:

- Has no direct access to the I-10 freeway;
- Requires bridge crossings for access to most parts of the city;
- Has the largest residential population aged 75 and older; and
- Annually welcomes nearly half a million visitors for the BNP Paribas Tennis Tournament.

In addition to these challenges, Indian Wells operates with only 34 full-time staff, relying heavily on immediate Emergency Management Mutual Aid (EMMA) requests during EOC activations. Despite significant investments in training and preparedness initiatives, the current outdated and seismically untested EOC threatens effective response efforts. A new EOC is critical to better serve the city, its residents, and its tourist population during natural disasters and other emergencies.

As the central hub for coordinated decision-making, communication, and resource allocation during emergencies, the EOC enables efficient information exchange, rapid situation assessment, and the timely deployment of resources to mitigate the impact of emergencies. Through centralized coordination, the EOC is indispensable in safeguarding lives, property, and critical infrastructure within the community.

The proposed project encompasses the demolition, design, and reconstruction of the Indian Wells EOC. The anticipated total cost is approximately \$3,000,000, primarily allocated to ensuring seismic compliance with FEMA and ICC codes.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to give this proposal full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Karina Quintanilla
Mayor, City of Palm Desert